

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 and 8-16, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 are amended.

In the amendment of each of claims 1, 6 and 9 (obtaining step and third means for obtaining), the added language to "information as to output position, rotation and position adjustment of the series of images" is supported by originally filed Fig. 4 and the specification at page 15, lines 8-13.

According to the amendment, a layout of a series of images obtained by a radiography apparatus is automatically constructed on the basis of output-format control information including information as to output position, rotation and position adjustment of the series of images. Applicant respectfully submits that the added is not disclosed in the cited references.

***Claim Objections***

Claim 4 is objected to because a hyphen was inadvertently included in the retyped claim. Applicant has amended the claim to correct the error. The amendment does not raise new issues or require a new search, and it should be entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

**Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller (6,687,331) in view of Bae (2003/0228041) and Hibbard (6,266,453).** This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that the added feature to obtaining output control information that specifically includes information as to (1) output position, (2) rotation and (3) position adjustment for the series of images is not taught in any of the cited art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Application No. 09/987,377

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

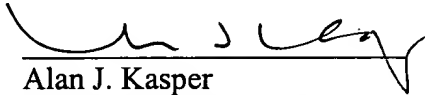
Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

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